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number of this latest issue, 102, will give some idea of the scope of the collection, which includes German translations of the works of Aristotle, Bacon, Berkeley, Bruno, Cicero, Condillac, Descartes, Grotius, Hume, Leibnitz, Locke, De la Mettrie, Duns Scotus, Sextus Empiricus, and Spinoza, as well as editions of the German philosophers Kant, Fichte, Hegel, Schleiermacher, etc.

We have also just recently received from the publishers new reprints of the translations of the second volume of Locke's *Essay on Human Understanding* (price, 3 marks), the second edition of Schleiermacher's translation of Plato's *State* (price, 3 marks), and the third edition of the German translation of Berkeley's *Principles of Human Knowledge* (price, 2 marks). The prices of the collection are not high, varying from 15 cents for an average of eighty pages to 75 cents for books of from 400 to 500 pages.

AN ENQUIRY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING. By *David Hume*. Reprinted from the edition of 1777, with Hume's autobiography and a letter from Adam Smith. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. 1900. Pages, xvi, 180. Price, paper, 25 cents (1s. 6d.).

The present little volume is one of a number of philosophical and scientific classics which it is the intention of the publishers to incorporate in their Religion of Science Library. Descartes's *Discourse on Method* was the first to appear, and Kant's *Prolegomena* will in all likelihood also be published. The intention is to furnish cheap and substantial editions of the concisest and most representative works of the great philosophers.

Hume's *Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding* and *Concerning the Principles of Morals* were formally proclaimed by him to be the sole productions by which his philosophical sentiments and principles should be judged; and while some historians are inclined to the belief that his *Treatise of Human Nature*, which the *Enquiries* were written to replace, furnishes his soundest claim to a place among the great thinkers of Europe, it is nevertheless true that the *Enquiries* are far more concise, elegant, and lucid than the older *Treatise*, and that for general purposes they afford a much easier and more pleasant introduction to his thought.

The value of the present volume, which is simply a reprint from the posthumous edition of 1777, has been enhanced by the addition of Hume's well-known autobiography and the letter from Adam Smith usually prefixed to Hume's *History of England*. A reproduction of the portrait of Hume, by Ramsay, forms the frontispiece to the volume.

LA TEORIA DEI BISOGNI. By *Camillo Trivero*. Turin: Bocca Bros. 1900. Pages, 198.

This work is number twenty-three of the Little Library of Modern Science (*Piccola Biblioteca di Scienze Moderne*) of which the Brothers Bocca are the edi-

tors. Other numbers of this Library have been noticed in these columns. We have in the present volume a thorough discussion of the theory of wants—thorough as far as it goes, for, as the author says, an exhaustive treatment would include all human history. Among the topics discussed are: the general concept of want, its extension and value, the division of wants and the corresponding division of the sciences and arts, what should be understood by a classification of wants, consciousness, its degrees and forms, and the functions of the theory set forth. The writer opposes the materialistic conception of history and the whole book may be briefly described as a rejoinder to those who have ascribed primary importance and dominance to economic wants. Its message to the disinherited is "O people, you are *human*, but in the widest meaning of the word. Educate yourselves! Elevate yourselves! Economic progress is intimately connected with so many other things. Honesty is the foundation of it. But honesty does not depend upon the individual will alone; it depends upon tradition, usage, public morality, laws, etc. But these will not better themselves without *knowledge*. Then again I say, educate yourselves, and your advance will be complex and general."

I. W. H.

DELL' UNITÀ DELLE SCIENZE PRATICHE. By *Gaetano Jandelli*. Milan: Capriolo and Massimino. 1899. Pages, 439.

The book represents an effort to trace out the principle lying at the base of and presupposed by all the practical sciences. It is impossible in a brief notice adequately to describe, or even to mention, the salient features of this work which even a cursory examination shows to be full of pregnant thoughts. It is a scholarly and profound work on Practical Philosophy as defined by John Stuart Mill in his *System of Logic*. The range of such a book is implied by its title. Its theological trend may arouse suspicion, but its searching criticism of the various theories of morals will win the admiration if not the approval of the reader.

I. W. H.

LA RIDUZIONE PROGRESSIVA DELLA VARIABILITÀ E I SUOI RAPPORTI COLL' ESTINZIONE E COLL' ORIGINE DELLE SPECIE. By *Daniele Rosa*. Turin: Carlo Claussen. 1899. Pages, 133.

Professor Rosa in this volume contributes a brief but interesting and scholarly discussion of some important phylogenetic problems. Beginning with an inquiry into the causes of the extinction of species, he is gradually led to a consideration of the various theories concerning their origin. The book is divided into three chapters with the following titles, respectively: The Extinction of Species and the Progressive Reduction of Variation; Progressive Reduction of Variation and Progressive Reduction of Variability, and, finally, the Progressive Reduction of Variability and the Origin of Species. The basis of the whole discussion is the proposition that species which have disappeared without necessary modification are generally the most perfect. This fact is accounted for in the first chapter by the law of progressive reduction of variation, which corresponds pretty closely to Cope's "law of